

CRANSTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

MONDAY, JANUARY 10, 2005

WESTERN HILLS MIDDLE SCHOOL

400 PHENIX AVENUE

EXECUTIVE SESSION: 6:00 P.M.

PUBLIC SESSION: 7:00 P.M.

MINUTES

The regular monthly meeting of the Cranston School Committee was held on the evening of the above date at Western Hills Middle School with the following members present: Mr. Archetto, Mrs. Greifer, Ms. Iannazzi, Mr. Lupino, Mr. Palumbo, Mr. Stycos, and Mr. Traficante. Also present were Mrs. Ciarlo, Mr. Balducci, and Mr. Votto.

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 p.m. It was moved by Mr. Lupino, seconded by Ms. Iannazzi and unanimously carried that the members adjourn to Executive Session to discuss personnel pursuant to RI State Laws 42-46-5(1) and 42-46-5(2) contract and litigation.

The meeting reconvened at 7:20 p.m.

The roll was called and the Pledge of Allegiance conducted.

Moved by Mr. Traficante, seconded by Mr. Lupino and unanimously carried that the January 10, 2005 Executive Session minutes remain confidential.

I. COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Palumbo stated that there have been a number of concerns brought forward regarding Resolution No. 05-1-17. In order to avoid confusion, he asked for a motion to table this Resolution in order to give the Laborers some time to present it to the committee and the public as to why it would be beneficial to the Cranston Public Schools and its students to have this Resolution passed.

Moved by Mr. Lupino and seconded by Mrs. Greifer that Resolution No. 05-1-17 be tabled.

Mr. Stycos stated that the committee would benefit from a discussion regarding this Resolution before it was tabled. Mr. Palumbo stated that it was not an item to be discussed; a tabled item could not be discussed. Mr. Stycos indicated that the Resolution had to be moved up on the agenda out of order, and that could be discussed. Mr. Palumbo indicated that he was discussing this under communications because of the request he had. Mr. Stycos stated that the Resolution had to be moved

up on the Agenda in order to table the Resolution. Mr. Palumbo said that anyone who wished to discuss this particular Resolution could do so at the end of the meeting under non-agenda items. It simply could not be discussed at this time.

Mr. Palumbo asked Mr. Stycos how he was voting, and Mr. Stycos stated that he was unsure about what he was voting on at this particular point. Mr. Palumbo stated that the committee would be voting to table Resolution No. 05-1-17. Mr. Stycos asked Mr. Palumbo for his assurance that there would be an open hearing on this issue in the future, and Mr. Palumbo responded that there would be. In addition, it can be discussed at the end of the meeting. Mr. Stycos asked if a member of the public could address it, and Mr. Palumbo said that a member of the public could address it at the end of the meeting. Mr. Stycos responded that the Resolution is on the agenda, and Mr. Palumbo indicated that it would be tabled. Mr. Stycos remarked that the Resolution may be tabled, but it was still on the agenda. Mr. Palumbo stated that by tabling this Resolution it would not stop anyone from the public from speaking.

It was adopted to table Resolution No. 05-1-17 with Mr. Archetto and Ms. Iannazzi abstaining.

Mr. Stycos distributed a proposed resolution being sponsored by

himself and Mr. Archetto. He explained that the resolution refers to the extra \$79,000 that the Mayor and the City Council have appropriated to the School Committee. Of the extra \$79,000, they would like to have \$33,000 budgeted to re-establish middle school sports for the spring season and \$46,000 for textbooks. He asked that this be placed on the agenda before early February because in talking with the Athletic Director he told him that if the committee were to decide to have middle school sports for the spring season this year the committee would have to make the decision by early February due to scheduling and fields. He asked that the committee look at the meetings between now and early February and at one of those meetings this Resolution could be discussed.

Mr. Palumbo stated that there are a number of meetings scheduled to discuss the budget. He said that he would do the best he could to schedule a work session to discuss this proposed resolution or some other way to discuss it.

II. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Stycos reported that a meeting of the Nutrition Committee is scheduled to be held Thursday, January 13th, at 6:30 p.m. in the Park View Library. Everyone is welcome to attend. He noted that only three School Committee members could attend because of the Open Meetings Law, and he and Mrs. Greifer are members of this

committee. Mr. Lupino asked if votes were taken at these meetings, and Mr. Stycos responded that no votes were taken. Mr. Lupino indicated that members could attend since they were not

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discussing School Committee business or taking votes. Mr. Stycos believed that this was School Committee business.

A motion was made by Mr. Lupino, seconded by Ms. Iannazzi and unanimously carried to move Resolution No.'s 05-1-1 and 05-1-2 to this section of the agenda.

SPONSORED BY THE COMMITTEE

NO. 05-1-1 - Whereas, the Cranston High School West Girls' Tennis Team under the direction of Head Coach James Lucas, and Assistant Coach Nancy Hersey had an outstanding season in the Fall of 2004, and

Whereas, through their hard work and dedication on the tennis courts, they captured the Division III South Championship with a perfect record of 16-0, and

Whereas, through their continued hard work, outstanding team and individual performances, they overcame the hospitalization of their number one singles player on the eve of the State playoffs. With

everyone moving up one slot on the ladder, they were still able to defeat both Tolman High School and St. Raphael Academy by identical scores of 5-2 to capture the Division III State Championship and finish the season with a perfect 18-0 record,

Be it RESOLVED that the following team members: Kimberly Boghossian, Ani Megerdichian, Tri Captain Lisa Lao, Tri Captain Nicole Hersey , Tri Captain Jessica Wong, Elizabeth Snead, Melanie Chiv, Stephanie George, Chantal Hernandez, Andrea Tateosian, Candice Bousquet, Mikayla Jansen, Jennifer Tucci, Vanessa Scialabba, Jaclyn Resnick, Tina Abelli, Adrienne Gerard, Ariel Biern, Victoria Alviti, Jamie Moscovitz, Emily Estes, Shayna Matzner, Kelly Ruggieri, Amanda Nardone, Melissa Tilton, Meagan Durigan, Ashley Warning, Danielle Fonseca, Amanda DelFarno, Alicia Rossi, Erica Salk and Donielle Goodreau, and

Be it further RESOLVED that they be congratulated by the members of the Cranston School Committee for their hard work and dedication and that they be presented with a copy of this Resolution signed by the members of the committee.

Moved by Mr. Lupino and seconded by Mr. Traficante that this Resolution be adopted.

Ms. Iannazzi read the Resolution and presented it to the students. A photograph was taken.

This Resolution was adopted unanimously.

NO. 05-1-2 - Whereas, the Cranston High School West Varsity Football Team, under the direction of Head Coach Steven Stoehr, Assistant Coaches Thomas Milewski,

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Joseph Picano, Robert Malo, Jay Jones and Volunteer Assistants Corey Capirchio, Sal Capirchio, Michael Devaney, Michael Fitzgerald, Stephen Hallas, Jason Hogan, Matthew Mancuso and Anthony Rainone had an outstanding season in the Fall of 2004, and

Whereas, through their hard work and dedication in the weight room and on the field, captured the Division I League Championship with a record of 9-1, and

Whereas, through their continued hard work, outstanding team and individual performances, defeated Portsmouth High School at Cranston Stadium in the State semi finals 14-13 allowing them to advance to the Division I State Championship Super Bowl on December 5, 2004 at Pierce Field in East Providence where they were lead by Super Bowl MVP Victor Serabian in their 28-14 victory over LaSalle Academy giving Cranston High School West their very first Division I Football State Championship while finishing the season

with an overall record of 12-1,

Be it RESOLVED that the following team members: John Gallonio, Daniel King, Anthony Castelli, Thomas Hitt, Robert Carbone, Captain Victor Serabian, Matthew Grande, Adam Woellner, Captain Paul Ouellet, Kyle Izzo, Jason Cook, Stephen Vendettoli, Zachary Kiernan, Kyle Vecchiarino, Luis Acevedo, Saul Rivera, Andrew Marketos, James Tomaselli, Steven Crandall, Michael Faria, Robert Geremia, Derrick King, Ceasar Martinez, Eric Moscarelli, Alex Mendez, Alex Lowenthal, David DeCristofaro, Anthony Ferrer, Charles DiRaimo. Ryan Forte, Luis Callado, Louis Guglielmetti, Michael Petrocelli, Patrick Centore, Melvin Reyes, Luis Dias, Steven Pirri, Louis Faiola, Kyle Dolan, Richard Aitchison, Michael Serabian, Frank DiVencenzo, Joseph Piccione, Dylan Murphy, Alex DeCiccio, Stephen Mancini, Joseph Beaudoin, Edward Varone, Zachary Okolowicz, James Rossi, Brian Wilby, Stephen Grande, Jesse DiZoglio, Keith Murray, Andrew Iannotti, Captain Paul Carbone, Kevin Grant, Charles Haskell, Nicholas Giannini, Jared Roberti, John Davis, Captain Kyle Murray, Ryan Sczerbinski, Lorenzo Lonardo, Daniel Vendettuoli, Michael Baker, George Arany, Anthony Mancini and Joseph Madonna, and

Be it further RESOLVED that they be congratulated by the Cranston School Committee for their hard work and dedication and that they be presented with a copy of this Resolution signed by the members of the committee.

Moved by Ms. Iannazzi and seconded by Mr. Lupino that this Resolution be adopted.

Mr. Lupino read the Resolution and presented it to the students. A photograph was taken.

This Resolution was adopted unanimously.

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III. SPEAKERS – AGENDA ITEMS

Michael Cardarelli, Jr., 53 Fairfield Road – He referred to Resolution No. 05-1-3. He stated that he was the maker of the motion that originally created the work sessions. The reason for creating them was due to the fact that the School Committee meetings were becoming longer and longer. There were so many presentations and issues discussed in Executive Session that every School Committee meeting went on until 11:00 p.m. or 11:30 p.m., and the work sessions were created as a forum for the committee members to have presentations and informational sessions. He did not understand what was behind this particular resolution. Regarding Resolution No. 05-1-7, when he downloaded the agenda from the website, he was shocked to see the name of Mary McNally. Over the past two years as a School Committee and more importantly as a parent he has been

impressed with Mary McNally's performance as a principal at Waterman School. His son attends this school, and she has been a tremendous asset to the school. She has been one of the finest principals he has ever worked with during his six-year tenure on the School Committee. He was not saying this just because she is the principal at the school his son attends. She is the absolute perfect professional to deal with. She has impressed him immensely with her professionalism. She is there every morning to greet the students as they go in, and she is there every afternoon as the students are dismissed. She has created a warm environment for the children to attend school. She is absolutely what a parent wants in a principal. When he sees her, he will offer his congratulations, but he is very sad to see her go. She is a tremendous loss to the Cranston Public Schools. Mr. Cardarelli referred to Resolution No. 05-1-9, recalling Nahiah Hookway from layoff. She is an outstanding asset to the school department as an employee. She is a tremendous supporter of Cranston Public Schools. She and her husband, Dr. Hookway, have been there for the schools over the years. They are tremendous Cranston East boosters and great supporters of this school system in general. They have always been there when needed. He has seen her working at both Waterman and Dutemple Schools where their daughters have attended school.

IV. MINUTES OF MEETINGS – December 7, 2004 and December 13, 2004

Moved by Mr. Lupino, seconded by Mr. Traficante and unanimously carried that the minutes of December 7, 2004 and December 13, 2004 be approved.

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V. RESOLUTIONS

SPONSORED BY MR. TRAFICANTE

NO. 05-1-3 – RESOLVED, that the Cranston School Committee establish a Study Committee of three School Committee members selected by the Chairman to revisit rules and regulations of governance and procedure regarding both the School Committee regular meetings and scheduled work sessions.

Be it further RESOLVED that the committee will report back to the full School Committee during the scheduled March work session with potential governance and procedural suggestions that will enhance and streamline the business conducted at the aforementioned scheduled meetings.

Moved by Mr. Lupino and seconded by Mr. Greifer that this Resolution be adopted.

Mr. Palumbo stated that he was suggesting Mrs. Greifer, Mr. Traficante, and Ms. Iannazzi to serve on this committee. He felt that there were many things that could be streamlined for the School Committee meetings so that time is not being wasted during these meetings. Hopefully, it would shorten the length of the meetings. With these three people meeting, he felt that changes to procedure in the business before the committee could be made to speed up the procedure to shorten the meetings. The committee would be spending a great deal of time in the work sessions, but at least public meetings would go quickly in order for the committee to get home at a reasonable hour. For this reason, he was very much in favor of this resolution.

Mr. Traficante responded to Mr. Cardarelli's remarks that he has no intention of eliminating the work sessions since they are a valuable asset. The School Committee meetings should be able to address the business at hand. He remarked further that he submitted this resolution because the City Council every two years scrutinizes their rules and regulations to make it more efficient and more effective and more proficient. He felt that the School Committee owed it to themselves to do likewise. This resolution is to enhance the business at hand and to make the meetings more streamlined in a timely fashion.

Mr. Stycos asked Mr. Traficante or Mr. Palumbo to give an example of

the kind of idea they would be looking at to streamline the business of the committee. Mr. Palumbo responded that he would be leaving it up to the committee. If he had any input, he would give it to the committee, and they could accept it or reject it so that when they come back to the full committee, they can then make their recommendations. He will not tell the committee what they should be looking at. Mr. Traficante remarked that when one goes to the City Clerk's office, he or she is given an entire packet regarding their business and city decorum. He had asked for a packet for the School Committee, and there is none regarding their procedure and decorum. He further indicated that

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there were a number of things that could be done to enhance meetings. He belongs to the Rhode Island Airport Authority Board, and they deal with a number of action items, and they are dealt with more effectively and efficiently. This committee could take a look at the recommendations and vote up or down on the issues. The School Committee should deal with agenda, and this is his personal opinion. He would like to see the School Committee have a packet that defines the rules of the School Committee in terms of order of business and type of decorum. Mr. Stycos responded that the committee does have by laws which are two pages, but it is not a packet. Mr. Traficante indicated to Mr. Stycos that it was his understanding that those policies were being researched and

updated. He would like to participate in this procedure to make it more effective and efficient.

Mr. Archetto indicated to Mr. Palumbo that the committee works under Robert's Rules of Order. He asked if the committee ever had rules implemented before or if this was the first time. Mr. Palumbo responded that this was his second term in office, and he didn't know the answer to his question. Mr. Archetto asked Mr. Palumbo why one of the more outspoken members wasn't on this committee. He stated that he was recommending that Mr. Stycos serve on this committee. Mr. Lupino asked if Mr. Archetto was suggesting an amendment to this resolution since the resolution states that the three members would be chosen by the School Committee Chairman. Mr. Archetto responded that his recommendation would be to place a more outspoken member on the committee. Mrs. Ciarlo stated that there were no work sessions before she became Superintendent of Schools. There were budget sessions but no work sessions. These were developed so that the committee members could have discussions on topics without voting. This addition has worked wonderful for the committee. She was confident that this new committee would accept input from anyone else on the School Committee. Mrs. Ciarlo suggested that the suggestions from this committee come forward to the full committee in a work session before voting on them. At that time, everyone would have a chance to discuss it before voting on it.

Mr. Palumbo explained that he selected Ms. Iannazzi because she is going to law school, and rules and structure is something she should know about at this particular time. Mr. Traficante has certainly had years of experience on how business meetings are run, and Mrs. Greifer has been working with the various parent groups and other groups for many years. She has a good feel as to what might be done to streamline some of these meetings. With regard to Mr. Stycos, Mr. Palumbo will ask him to update the School Committee policy books because this seems to be right up his alley.

Mr. Lupino added that he hoped that the intention of this committee was not to change the agenda document. He prides himself on the fact that anyone can log on to the website or pick up an agenda at the School Committee meetings. Everyone knows exactly what the committee is talking about when they read the agenda. He could not say the same about the City Council docket. It is mired in legalize and ordinances with

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numbers and letters, and he doesn't know what they are talking about. Mr. Traficante responded that the document will be studied along with decorum and procedure, debate, order of business, conduct, etc. He also disagreed with Mr. Lupino; he felt that the City Council meetings were run in an orderly fashion. Mr. Lupino indicated that no names are mentioned on the City Council dockets

for their meetings. Each of the School Committee resolutions has names and fiscal notes where necessary. Mr. Traficante assured the committee members that all procedures would be scrutinized. Mr. Palumbo added that if Mr. Lupino or Mr. Stycos wanted to give input, it would be accepted.

Mr. Archetto added that new rules could be implemented to control or stifle debate. This evening there was a resolution on the agenda, and it was stifled. People have come to this meeting, and now they can't testify either for or against it. He further noted that his fear is that new rules will stifle debate.

Ms. Iannazzi stated that if one read the resolution it clearly states that this committee has to report back to the full School Committee at a work session so that any issues would be addressed at that time. Mr. Traficante mentioned to Mr. Archetto that he was Council President for four years and never stifled debate, and as Mayor, he never stifled debate. He has no intention of stifling debate.

This Resolution was adopted with Mr. Archetto and Mr. Stycos opposed.

ADMINISTRATION

PERSONNEL

NO. 05-1-4 – RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the

Superintendent, the following certified personnel be appointed for the remainder of the 2004-2005 school year:

Frank W. Vincent, salary to be at the tenth step plus Masters of the prevailing salary schedule

Education – Trinity College, BA; University of Connecticut, MA

Experience –Griswold School Department

Certification – Guidance Counselor. K-12

Assignment – Gladstone School, Guidance Counselor, 1.0 FTE

Effective Date of Employment – January 3, 2005

Authorization – New

Fiscal Note: 50919121 512100

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Michele K. Dunphy, salary to be at the second step of the prevailing salary schedule

Education – Rhode Island College, BS

Experience – Cranston Public Schools' Substitute

Certification – Special Education, Elementary/Middle School

Assignment – Bain Middle School, Special Education, 1.0 FTE

Effective Date of Employment – January 10, 2005

Authorization – Replacement

Fiscal Note: 11532031 512100

Michael Zanfagna, salary to be at the first step of the prevailing salary schedule

Education – University of Rhode Island, BA

Experience – West Warwick Student Teacher

Certification – Social Studies, Secondary/Middle School

Assignment – Western Hills Middle School, Social Studies, .5 FTE

Effective Date of Employment – January 10, 2005

Authorization – Replacement

Fiscal Note: 12911012 512100

Moved by Mr. Lupino and seconded by Ms. Iannazzi that this Resolution be adopted.

Mr. Palumbo noted the additional name of Michael Zanfagna from the Addendum to the Agenda. He also noted the change for Frank Vincent for certification from K-2 to K-12 and change in effective date of employment from January 11, 2005 to January 3, 2005.

This Resolution was adopted unanimously.

NO. 05-1-5 – RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following certified personnel be appointed as substitutes on a temporary basis as needed:

Karli Croft Elementary; Middle School Special Education

Erin Sears Elementary

Meredith A. Sellechio Elementary

Tara Teolis Elementary; Middle School Special Education

Karen Stein General Subject K-12

Alan Otto Middle/Secondary Science

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Moved by Mr. Lupino, seconded by Ms. Iannazzi and unanimously carried that this Resolution be adopted.

NO. 05-1-6 – RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following certified staff member be granted a leave of absence without compensation as provided in Article XIX of the Master Agreement between the Cranston School Committee and the Cranston Teachers' Alliance:

Barbara Doorley

Horton School

Effective Dates: February 1, 2005 to September 2005

Moved by Mr. Lupino, seconded by Ms. Iannazzi and unanimously carried that this Resolution be adopted.

NO. 05-1-7 – RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the retirement of the following certified personnel be accepted:

Mary G. McNally, Principal

Waterman School

Effective Date: June 30, 2005

Mary Zolli, Teacher

Dutemple School

Effective Date: June 30, 2005

Moved by Mr. Lupino and seconded by Ms. Iannazzi that this Resolution be adopted.

Mrs. Ciarlo commented that this Resolution speaks to the retirement of certified personnel. Mary McNally has been the principal of Waterman School, and the district will certainly miss her. She has done a superb job during her three years in Cranston. The time has come for her to move on to something else, and everyone wishes her well. Mary Zolli has given thirty-three years to Cranston Public Schools. She started her career in Cranston in February 1972 at

various elementary schools. From 1982 to the present she has taught Kindergarten at Dutemple School. Mrs. Ciarlo thanks Mary for her many contributions and wished her well.

This Resolution was adopted unanimously.

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NO. 05-1-8 – RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the resignation of the following certified personnel be accepted:

**Lisa C. Beaudoin, Special Education Teacher
Cranston High School East
Effective Date: January 14, 2005**

**Dennis W. Robidoux, Mathematics Teacher
Cranston High School West
Effective Date: December 30, 2004**

Moved by Mr. Lupino, seconded by Ms. Iannazzi and unanimously carried that this Resolution be adopted.

NO. 05-1-9 – RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the

Superintendent, the following non-certified employee be recalled from layoff:

Nahiah Hookway, 3-Hour Teacher Assistant

Barrows School

Effective Date: January 3, 2005

Moved by Mr. Lupino and seconded by Ms. Iannazzi that this Resolution be adopted.

Mrs. Ciarlo commented that the district was very happy to recall Nahiah Hookway. Both she and her husband were instrumental in Dutemple School getting its first computer lab.

This Resolution was adopted unanimously.

NO. 05-1-10 – RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following non-certified employees be appointed:

Raymond O'Mara, Bus Driver

Transportation

Effective Date of Employment: January 11, 2005

Fiscal Note: 14347565 517200

James Paraiso, Jr., Bus Driver

Transportation

Effective Date of Employment: January 11, 2005

Fiscal Note: 14347565 517200

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Carol Capasso Giammarco, Bus Aide

Transportation

Effective Date of Employment: January 3, 2005

Fiscal Note: 14347542 519500

Loretta Emma, 3-Hour Food Service Worker

Food Service

Effective Date of Employment: December 6, 20004

Fiscal Note: 32547179 511000

Antonette Brown, 3-Hour Food Service Worker

Food Service

Effective Date of Employment: November 1, 2004

Fiscal Note: 31947179 511000

Ester Bernardo-Tuirok, 3-Hour Food Service Worker

Food Service

Effective Date of Employment: December 13, 2004

Fiscal Note: 32647179 511000

Elaine Ferguson, 3-Hour Food Service Worker

Food Service

Effective Date of Employment: January 6, 2005

Fiscal Note: 33047179 511000

Karen Casale, Teacher Assistant

Cranston High School West

Effective Date of Employment: January 11, 2005

Fiscal Note: 12632032 519500

Elizabeth DelBonis, 3-Hour Food Service Worker

Food Service

Effective Date of Employment: January 4, 2005

Fiscal Note: 32447179 511000

Moved by Mr. Lupino and seconded by Ms. Iannazzi that this Resolution be adopted.

Mr. Palumbo noted the additional names of Karen Casale and Elizabeth DelBonis from the Addendum to the Agenda. He noted the removal of Evelyn Pagliaro from the Agenda.

This Resolution was adopted unanimously.

NO. 05-1-11 – RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following non-certified personnel be appointed as a substitute on a temporary basis as needed:

BUS DRIVER

Denise Hanscom

Moved by Mr. Lupino, seconded by Mr. Iannazzi and unanimously carried that this Resolution be adopted.

NO. 05-1-12 – RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following non-certified staff member be granted a parental leave without compensation as provided in Article 13 of the Agreement between the Cranston School Committee and the Rhode Island Council 94, AFSCME, AFL-CIO on behalf of Cranston Public Schools Employees, Local 2044:

Heidi Flori, Secretary

Cranston High School West

Effective Date: January 19, 2005 to August 2005

Moved by Mr. Lupino and seconded by Ms. Iannazzi that this Resolution be adopted.

Mr. Palumbo noted the change in effective starting date from

February 28, 2005 to January 19, 2005.

This Resolution was adopted unanimously.

NO. 05-1-13 – RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the following non-certified staff member be granted a leave of absence without compensation as provided in Article 17 of the Agreement between the Cranston School Committee and the Rhode Island Council 94, AFSCME, AFL-CIO on behalf of the Cranston Public Schools Employees, Local 2044:

Deborah M. Scienzo, Secretary

Western Hills Middle School

Effective Dates: December 15, 2004 to June 15, 2005

Moved by Mr. Lupino, seconded by Ms. Iannazzi and unanimously carried that this Resolution be adopted.

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NO. 05-1-14 – RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the resignations of the following non-certified personnel be accepted:

Donna A. McDonald, Secretary

Administration

Effective Date: December 24, 2004

Josephine Enright, 3-Hour Food Service Worker

Food Service

Effective Date: December 13, 2004

Rene Blanchette, 3-Hour Food Service Worker

Food Service

Effective Date: December 13, 2004

Carmela Marks, 3-Hour Food Service Worker

Food Service

Effective Date: January 3, 2005

Moved by Mr. Lupino, seconded by Ms. Iannazzi that this Resolution be adopted.

Mr. Palumbo noted the additional name of Carmela Marks from the Addendum to the Agenda.

This Resolution was adopted unanimously.

NO. 05-1-15 – RESOLVED, that at the recommendation of the Superintendent, the termination of Employee A be accepted.

Moved by Mr. Lupino, seconded by Ms. Iannazzi and unanimously carried that this Resolution be adopted.

BUSINESS

NO. 05-1-16 – RESOLVED, that Anthony J. Lupino be reimbursed for travel and miscellaneous expenses in the amount of \$356.44 for the period July 1, 2004 to December 31, 2004.

Moved by Ms. Iannazzi, seconded by Mr. Traficante and carried with Mr. Lupino abstaining that this Resolution be adopted.

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NO. 05-1-17 - Whereas, the Cranston School Committee is the Lessee under a certain lease dated August 8, 2002, by and between the Committee and UBIO, Inc., a Rhode Island Corporation and the owner of property (hereinafter referred to as the “property”) located at 4 Sharpe Drive, Cranston, Rhode Island, and

Whereas, under Section 1.04 of said lease, after the first two years and within the first five-year term of said lease, the Committee has the option to purchase said property for the sum of Three Million, Two Hundred Thousand (\$3,200,000.00) Dollars, and

Whereas, also under Section 1.04 of said lease, after the first five years and during the five-year renewal period of said lease, the Committee has a right of first refusal to purchase said property, and

Whereas, the Committee and the Laborers International Union of North America are partners to an agreement to operate a Public Charter School on the premises of the property, and

Whereas, the Committee and UBIO, Inc. are the parties desirous of transferring and assigning said option to purchase and right of first refusal contained in said lease from the Committee to the New England Laborers Training Trust Fund,

Be it RESOLVED that the Superintendent of Schools be authorized to execute the Lease Assignment, a copy of which is hereby attached and incorporated by reference.

It was adopted to table Resolution No. 05-1-17 with Mr. Archetto and Ms. Iannazzi abstaining.

VI. SPEAKERS – Non-agenda Items

Evan Kirshenbaum, 81 Pasture View Lane, Assistant City Solicitor for the City of Cranston – He stated that he was a graduate of Cranston High School West and is proud to hear the Chairman's recitation of

various awards the school department has won in the past few years. He believes the School Committee's obligation is two-fold. One has to do with the educational values and the education presented in Cranston schools and the other is a fiduciary obligation to the taxpayers and the City to make the most out of taxpayers' money to make sure the deals they enter into are sound ones on behalf of the City. He welcomed and respects the move by the committee tonight to table the resolution offering the Laborers' Union an option to purchase the Charter School building. He further commented that there has to be some due diligence on behalf of the School Committee to present the taxpayers with the various economic questions surrounding the assignment of the lease to the Laborers. A \$3.2 million option may be a good deal or it may not, but the point right now is that the School

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Committee does not know whether or not it is a good deal. The case has to be made to the taxpayers why it makes sense economically and to educate people who may not be familiar with the Charter School as to the benefits of those proposed actions. He recommended that a commercial appraisal be done of the building to see exactly what it would be worth at this time. He felt that the School Buildings Committee should be involved, and communication with the city administration should have taken place before placing this resolution on the docket. It is noted in the City Charter that when

transferring real estate it has to be accompanied by an appraisal which apparently has not happened in this case. He told the committee that he could understand their enthusiasm for what seems to be a successful operation of the Charter School, but at this point in time, a case has not been made to the taxpayers as to why this is would be good educationally or financially.

Valerie Schullie, Farm Street - She stated that she regularly attends the School Committee meetings and work sessions. She doesn't want the committee to think that the public is not interested in what goes on. She wants the committee to realize that the public does care. Sometimes the public has something to say, and sometimes they don't. She asked the committee to remember that the public wants a voice and demands it.

James Davey, 19 Quail Ridge Road – He congratulated Mrs. Ciarlo on being selected Rhode Island Superintendent of the Year. He told Mrs. Ciarlo that the public was honored to have her and glad to know that she was recognized for her work over all these years. He noted that he was a taxpayer and a Rhode Island Representative. He stated that the legislators at the State House have concerns about how they can best spend taxpayers' money. He noted that Mayor Laffey had an excellent editorial in the newspaper today regarding ideas on how state laws could be changed or new laws implemented to hopefully produce savings to the taxpayers. He hoped that all of these ideas would be debated and discussed. He further indicated that he wished

to explain some of the items he had heard at the State House thus far and that if the committee members had any thoughts on any of the subjects he would like to hear from them. There was discussion at the State House to have a statewide teachers' health insurance contract. With a larger pool of people, the committees could negotiate better rates. The way it currently works, there are thirty-six or thirty-nine different School Committees negotiating separate contracts. The idea would be to have just one contract to cover everyone. A lot of cities and towns may not want to give up their authority to negotiate, and one of the ways to do this is to offer a statewide contract; and if a city or town elected not to participate, their state aid would be reduced by the amount of excess dollars associated with the decision to stay with a local contract. There has been a study done regarding busing, and he suggested RIPTA do the busing, especially for special needs students who require busing long distances. There are estimates into the millions that could be saved by having a RIPTA contract for special needs students. He doesn't know the pros and cons of this suggestion, but he

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did know that Rhode Island as a state has the fifth highest tax burden.

Massachusetts use to be high as well, but they have made some changes. This can't continue the way it is going, and School Committees have a large impact on the dollars that are spent. Mr. Davey further commented that he is open to any and all ideas. His

telephone number is 464-6222 or his e-mail address is hoyajd65@cox.net. He looks forward to hearing from the committee on those ideas or any other ideas that they would like the state legislators to consider. If the committee wishes any new legislation to be considered, the cut off date is February 4th for guarantee to be heard.

Mr. Palumbo noted that the committee could respond only to agenda item speakers.

He invited Mr. Davey to the School Committee work sessions. Mrs. Ciarlo told Mr. Davey that it has been past practice to invite the Rhode Island delegation to a meeting with the School Committee to share with them areas where bills are introduced to help reduce the cost, and one of those areas is busing. Mrs. Ciarlo would like to have such a meeting again with the delegation. Mr. Davey responded that the Cranston delegation is a good bi-partisan group.

Mary Ellen Beauregard, 46 Ashbrook Drive - She congratulated all the new members on the School Committee. She attended this meeting on behalf of all the students at Hope Highlands School. She knows the committee has a big job ahead of them with the new budget. Mrs. Beauregard, along with other Hope Highlands' parents, have written a letter asking for another teacher at the school. She distributed copies of the letter to the School Committee and asked the committee to keep an open mind.

City Council President Aram Garabedian, 173 Belvedere Drive – Mr. Garabedian stated that he read the article in this morning's paper regarding the issue at the Charter School at approximately 5:20 a.m. He noted that he keeps a copy of the City Charter and the City Code in his den, and he read both of them. From his many years of experience on the School Buildings Committee and the state legislature, he knows something about how the city is suppose to function. If his memory serves him correctly, the School Committees have responsibilities and care, control and management of the schools under Title 16 of the state education laws. The City Charter which was passed in 1962 took school construction and created a special section called the School Buildings Committee which was validated by the Assembly making an exception to the schools in the area of school construction versus others. If this had not been validated, the School Committee would have the full operation of building schools. He concluded that the Charter School is a separate issue apart from the function of the School Buildings Committee. In reading this section, the School Buildings Committee is primarily involved in the planning, construction or new construction. He suggested that the School Committee get out some PR as to what the school is and what it does, what the cost is per student, and where the money comes from. By doing this, many people will be enlightened by this information. He did not know much about the Charter School building, and in his due diligence, he called the Tax Assessor to find out what the

assessed value of the property is. The assessed property was \$1,355,300, and the value of the building could be more; he has never been inside the building. One would have to check the other buildings in the area to see what they are assessed for before reaching a conclusion. With regard to the School Buildings Committee of which he is a member, he doesn't see it as a function of this committee because it is not new construction. He believed that in all the years he was on the School Committee he could remember one lease they did with St. Mark's School when the school department leased space from them for overcrowded classrooms. He believed this situation fell within the powers of the School Committee for care, control and management to enter into leases. For portable classrooms, the committee does not go before the School Buildings Committee. There are some parts of the city ordinance the Assistant City Solicitor referred to regarding appraisals, and Mr. Garabedian felt that he was correct that some homework should be done regarding the success of this school as to how it is running and the future of the school. He understood that the state pays 50% of the student cost and the city pays 50%. This has to be told to the taxpayers because a charter school is new to Cranston. He noted that it cost almost \$100,000 a year for students at the Training School. The taxpayers want to know how much it cost per student and if the property is worth the amount of money referred to in the lease. If the committee really felt that this school was very worthwhile, they might

consider a transfer of their rights of the purchase, and they might negotiate a long-term contract. If they see value in this project, they might consider a value of long leases with an option to buy. He read the lease, and it is typical of most leases. In reading today's newspaper, one could make certain conclusions on something that there is a great detail missing. The agreement may include some provisions that the partner has some certain rights of first request. With regard to tabling the resolution, the public is still being afforded the opportunity to speak. If this were a three-hour meeting, which it isn't, it would not have been the proper thing. to do. He came to this meeting to help the committee in considering the property. He suggested again that the School Committee do more PR regarding this Charter School because the taxpayers are watching every move of the City Council and School Committee.

Jeffrey Barone, 16 Samuel Court – He stated that he attended the Inauguration Monday evening, and he was very impressed with the remarks made by Council President Aram Garabedian. He said that he was looking forward to working together with the School Committee and the administration. As a new City Council member, he was excited about his remarks. When he read the newspaper this morning, his excitement went away because whoever was responsible for wanting to put this purchase into effect, did it by themselves. He was under the impression that everyone was going to work together. He thought the School Committee would have approached the City Council and administration to let them know

about this option and ask them what they should do. He hoped the committee could see their way clear to work together.

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Michael Cardarelli, Jr., 53 Fairfield Road – He indicated that the Mayor could not stay at this meeting. He comes to only one meeting, the January meeting, when he is sworn into office, and no one will see him for another two years. He came to the January 2003 meeting when he was sworn in and never saw him again until tonight. Mr. Cardarelli stated that he wished to speak on the UBIO building as well. Unlike some of the hired guns at this meeting, he has been in the UBIO building and was an avid supporter of the Charter School process. It is the best thing the committee has been doing for the last couple of years. If one were to speak with any of the parents of the students who attend the school, they will say how great the school is.

It is great because it was the only opportunity their children had for graduating. He noted that the appalling thing about the newspaper article is that it didn't touch on the underlying story. Mr. Stycos has been anti-Charter School with the Laborers since day one. Mr. Stycos has numerous Providence Journal articles from December 13 and 18, October 29 and 31, and May 20 meetings where he has been against this Charter School for every imaginable reason one could think of. They are a corrupt organization; he wouldn't want his child or children with this organization. They are the worst union possible.

Mr. Stycos always came up with an excuse to stay away from the Laborers. The Laborers brought their lawyer to a meeting with the committee to answer all Mr. Stycos's questions. He was a kind gentleman who answered all Mr. Stycos's questions, and it wasn't enough. The fact of the matter is that Mr. Stycos dislikes the Laborers. He has voted against every resolution having to do with this Charter School, so when he saw this on the agenda, he naturally is against it because he is against this Charter School partnership with the Laborers. Mayor Laffey is against this because Mr. Traficante sits on the board; that is why he is appalled and against it. He asked if either one of these individuals would care about a transfer of property that the School Committee leases. He asked where the School Committee would come up with \$3,200,000 for this building when the committee can't afford, and the Mayor admits that nothing will happen until the bond rating goes up to do Cranston East. He asked where the committee will get the money to put the addition on Cranston East. The committee will be begging the Laborers to buy this Charter School building. He doesn't mind if the committee puts this off for a few months. He supports this school. It is a dynamite building and is the most immaculate industrial building he has seen in his life. However, Mr. Stycos and Mayor Laffey have personal vendettas. Mr. Stycos's vendetta is the Laborers; Mayor Laffey's vendetta is Mr. Traficante, and their vendettas are affecting the children of Cranston. Both of them are attacking one person and one organization, and these vendettas are now coming into play. If the committee wasn't acting upon this lease and this organization and

this person were involved, Steve Laffey would be attacking the committee for not transferring this building. If United Pipe fitters were offering to buy a building for \$3 million and the committee said no, Steve Laffey would be at the microphone yelling that the committee refused \$3 million and the city is in financial need. If Mr. Stycos wished to say anything, Mr. Cardarelli said that he had the transcript from the October 30th meeting when the Laborers' lawyer came to a meeting to answer his questions. There are many articles from the Providence Journal where Mr. Stycos voted against the

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Charter School. In the May 20th meeting minutes he voted against the proposal with the Laborers. Mr. Stycos said that he didn't want his children with the Laborers in any fashion. Everyone knows what Steve Laffey says about the former Mayor. He asked that the window dressing and all the foolishness stop. He indicated to Representative Davey that Cranston Public Schools needs more state aid.

Mr. Cardarelli went on to comment that he has received numerous phone calls from parents that student bullying has not gone away even though a new policy is in place. It is still as prevalent in the middle schools as it was when the policy was adopted. The parents want Mr. Cardarelli to send the School Committee another letter. He asked the committee to stay on top of this issue and to follow up on it.

Jacqueline White, 36 Wain Street – She told Mr. Garabedian that he hit the nail on the head. The School Committee does have the rights to make the determination for the school department. The committee was within its rights when they signed the lease for the Charter School building, and they are still within their rights now to do whatever is necessary. She told the new School Committee not to allow Mayor Laffey to bully them into making poor decisions for this school department. He is already trying them out because he knows they are fairly new and inexperienced. Mr. Lupino has six years' experience and Mr. Palumbo has two years' experience. Mr. Stycos has the years, but he does not have the experience because he is in his own world with his own agenda. The rest of the committee are new. Mrs. Greifer has attended most of the meetings, and she is familiar with the fiasco the committee has been going through for the past two years. The bottom line is that this school department over the past four years has been under funded so much so that they are nickel and diming everything to death to try to make this school department survive. They are now going to another extreme. They can't afford to buy the building. She challenged Mayor Laffey to buy the building if he feels it is so important. The school department cannot afford to buy it. She is very proud and very privileged as a School Committee member for sixteen years to have partnered up with a group such as the International Laborers. The committee couldn't have asked for a better partner. They helped the Cranston students who would never have graduated. It didn't cost any more

than the per pupil expenditure. The taxpayers in this city don't know what they have. They shouldn't listen to the Mayor Laffey sound bites on radio talk shows. This morning he was all dressed up in his suit waiting for his press conference. It is something to pick on and something to give sound bites about. There are never the full truths, only half truths. He listens to Mr. Stycos who doesn't know the full story because he doesn't understand it. He has been around, but he doesn't have a clue. He is feeding the Mayor the information. Mrs. White challenged the Mayor that if he thinks it is such a wonderful price then he should buy it and let the school department do their thing. She asked the Mayor to keep his nose out of the committee's business and to worry about the city because he can't run the city. He has overtaxed the taxpayers and under funded the school department. He is wrecking this city. It is about time that the City Council stands up to him. She told the School

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Committee to stand up to him; he is not worth it because he is leaving in two years. She asked them not to let him wreck this school department. Hope Highlands School was represented at this meeting asking for another teacher. There is no money, and that is why they don't have what they need. All of the buildings have needs, and everyone knows it. Last year the committee sat for hours on end talking about closing Kindergarten classes and moving students around. The Mayor doesn't care. His son is attending LaSalle

Academy, and he doesn't care where his children attend school because he can afford to put his children in private schools. The committee has to care about the students whose parents cannot afford to put them in private schools because they are paying their taxes. He has driven many residents out of the city, and he has driven her out. She has since moved to Coventry because she can no longer afford to pay the taxes in this city. She can no longer afford to pay her Blue Cross at \$1,100 a month along with the high taxes. This is the city that she loves. She doesn't think that Mayor Laffey loves this city. He was gone for over twenty years. He came in on a white horse, and he will ride out on a white horse. Her roots are here, and her children received a wonderful education. She wants every other child in this city to get the same thing. Mrs. White told the School Committee not to let the Mayor intimidate them, don't let him bulldoze them, and don't listen to his lies. The man tells half truths; he has a lawyer come to the microphone. She told the committee to have a relationship with Mr. Garabedian and the City Council. The committee was having a relationship last year with the Council until the Mayor stepped in and took a personal lawsuit against the committee. The time has come to stand up to him. She asked why Mr. Stycos informed the Mayor about the resolution when he should have called Mr. Palumbo or Superintendent Ciarlo. He wanted to go the press and have his name all over the radio talk shows and TV programs. He doesn't impress her; he is a fool. He is a lousy Mayor. He has raised taxes three times and is proud of a \$14 million surplus on her tax dollars. He did nothing for this city. She asked what

economic development he brought into Cranston. The former Park Cinema still isn't open after two years, and he should be collecting taxes there. She told the committee to please be aware of what they were dealing with. He is a snake and tells half truths. She asked Mr. Traficante to go back to the Laborers and tell them that she is proud to be a partner with them. The school department couldn't get a partner than the Laborers.

Freda Lehrer, 63 Riverfarm Road – She stated that she hadn't planned on speaking, but she was sitting in a very uncomfortable location with the people around her. She has been a very strong supporter of Cranston Public Schools. Mr. Cardarelli and Mrs. White are so passionate because of all the time they have devoted to the school system. It is easy to sit back and make comments about people who have been so passionate about it, and she hoped that all this name calling would stop because they don't like the person. She further commented that she couldn't agree more with everything that Mrs. White and Mr. Cardarelli said. Through the CEAB, she has learned about the Charter School and feels that it is a wonderful school. She wished the school department had the money to buy the building, but since they don't, it is nice that

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someone can afford to buy it. She asked that the name calling be stopped and asked people to stop dismissing what people say just

because they don't like them as a person but look into the merits of this agreement and do what is right for the children. Her children graduated from Cranston East, and the tires are still on the roof.

Albert Benetti, 24 Concord Avenue – He stated that the City Council has gone to great lengths to have decorum at their meetings. When people come to the microphone to speak, he asked that they not be censored. He has been involved in politics in the city for fourteen years, and both he and Mr. Traficante have always respected each other in public. He sees people speaking who are responsible for issues, and they think some people forget. He has attended many meetings including those that established the Charter School. He also knows many people's political connections and what people have done behind the scenes at School Committee and Council meetings. He has never been intimidated since he became involved in 1991, but when people are on boards and committees and voted on certain things such as contracts that have cost this city millions of dollars, and then they come to the microphone and blame everyone else. Some of them have helped their family members get jobs, and then they want to walk away and live in another community. He would like to come to these meetings and speak on the issues and not get personal. He himself has been called a Laffey supporter at the Council meetings. He originally supported Mr. Garabedian, but when Mayor Laffey came in, he felt he had done a decent job in some respects. He has always spoken on the issues and tried to not make it personal. He told the committee members that if they wished to

make these meetings personal and get totally out of control, many of the public know a lot of things that could be brought before this committee as to how the members voted. He would like to have meetings where the issues are addressed. He had planned to speak on the issue of the lease, but since the Laborers weren't present to give their point of view and the School Committee voted to table the resolution, he felt he would wait to see what would happen. He asked the committee to not allow public speakers to get out of hand. Regardless of not liking the Mayor, one should not come before this board and threaten a member. He has never done it in all the years he has been involved. Most of the public have held their cool and acted appropriately. He hoped that this committee would make sure people do it at their meetings also.

Mr. Palumbo responded that he could not comment on what had been said, but he could comment on procedure. He had his ideas on what he would accept and not accept, but after speaking with the School Committee lawyer, he found out that there was no way that he could legally stop anyone from saying what they want to say. He would like to keep it on a level that is more than personal. However, he doesn't have that choice. That is why the public heard what they heard.

Deborah Salone, 114 Bartlett Avenue, Parent of a Child in the System – She stated that in looking at this morning's paper it was repulsive to her. She was excited that it

was a brand new year and that the city and school department had fresh new faces. She is not a native Cranstonian, but she has lived here for twenty-one years. She has been involved in this school system for twenty-one years and in the city. She has done here share of volunteering like everyone else in the audience. When she looks at the newspaper and it talks about people coming together and breaking bread on one side, and then she hears that citizens in the city are called Barbarians and talking about a Charter School that has tremendous assets for the students in this city, she was one of those no-name people who researched the Charter School from soup to nuts. She worked with former Mayor Michael Traficante and a host of other people to find out about charter schools. The public has now found out that the city was poor and now it is rich with \$14 million. The public knows that traditionally for the past six or seven years at least the School Committee has been under funded. There is an opportunity from an organization that is going to teach the students skills and purchase a building that the school department cannot. They will take those students and take those dreams and further them, and all the school department gets is that the attorneys will be in court tomorrow with a cease and desist order. Mrs. Salone went on further to say that she is a single mom, and she watches the news with her children. Sometimes it is so negative, and she tells them to shut it off. She asks them to look at their own community and its leaders. She has a leader who is telling her son and every other

student in the building that they are living in the 21st Century, and the name of that game is litigation. That is not what she taught her children. Her parents taught her to sit down and talk it out, but people don't do that any more. She asked the committee from her heart to please talk with Mr. Garabedian because of the sense he made when he spoke earlier. She applauded him for his knowledge. She didn't care if one was a Democrat or a Republican, but she asked them to think of the 11,000 students in the school system that look at the committee nameless and faceless who expect the committee to make sure that they are okay. The students don't care if the committee members are Republican or Democrat. They don't care if the members hang out with the Mayor, and they don't care if the members don't like him. They expect the committee members to do their jobs. As a parent of a child in this system, if the committee members don't do their due diligence, she will force them to. She will also go to the City Council meetings and force them also. Cranston has the best school system in the State of Rhode Island, and it is under funded. She told Mr. Archetto that he already knows this. He was in the House of Representatives ten years ago, and he knows how games are played. She told the committee to speak up and stand up; do the right thing.

Jim DeCesare, Resident of Cranston – He stated that this city was on the brink of bankruptcy just a few short years ago. The city had the Traficante and O'Leary administrations, and both administrations buried the city even more. Mayor Laffey came here with aspirations,

and he took the city out of the hole. It took money to raise the taxes in order to raise the bond rating to get out of the hole or else the city would still be in the malaise that it was in before after the two bad administrations.

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Moved by Ms. Iannazzi, seconded by Mrs. Greifer and unanimously carried that the meeting be adjourned.

Mr. Palumbo noted that the budget presentation would be held on Wednesday, January 19th, at 7:00 p.m. at Western Hills Middle School in the auditorium.

There being no further business to come before the meeting, it was adjourned at
8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Anthony J. Lupino
Clerk